

VQ-1, VW-1 completed its mission with an astonishing nineteen years of accident-free flight, totaling more than 160,000 flight hours. For its efforts, VW-1 was twice awarded the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation. Individual aircrew members have received more than 1,200 Air Medals, and the unit also includes two Purple Heart recipients, whose injuries were sustained in Southeast Asia.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the brave men of Airborne Early Warning Squadron One, designated VW-1. The squadron represented an important part of the United States Military, and its gallant members are a true example of unwavering patriotism. Let us never forget their service and the sacrifices they made in defense of our nation and their fellow service members.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND COMMITMENT OF VERNA MACDONALD TO THE WESTPORT COMMUNITY AND GRAYS HARBOR REGION

**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 10, 2014*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding community service of Verna MacDonald, who has dedicated herself to enriching her fellow citizens through her affiliations with the Westport Senior House, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3057, the American Legion Post #140 Lady Auxiliary, the Westport and Grayland area Volunteer Fire Departments, and the Coastal Harvest food distribution warehouse.

Verna MacDonald first moved to Westport with her husband Donald MacDonald in 1986. The unexpected passing of her husband in 1999 inspired her to get out and interact with her community. She has since been recognized as the "Grandma" of the city of Westport. It is difficult to find a person within the community that has not heard of the service Ms. MacDonald has provided. Her positive disposition and can-do attitude is well known.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. MacDonald has displayed a constant commitment to serving those in need through her varied volunteer activities. One of her most notable contributions to the Westport community has been her engagement with the Westport Senior House. Starting as secretary, Ms. MacDonald dedicated years to improving the building and providing meals and resources to its residents. One of her many accomplishments was securing a grant to fund a new handicapped access ramp named for her late husband. Later, as director, she worked to transform the Senior House into a certified Red Cross Emergency Shelter, equipped with cots, bedding, emergency food supplies and even a generator. Ms. MacDonald didn't stop there; she spearheaded the Westport Freedom Walk in 2006 to honor the victims of the September 11, 2001 attack, has organized a holiday gift donation program serving the senior citizens in Grays Harbor and northern Pacific counties, and volunteers at Coastal Harvest Food Bank. Ms. MacDonald's work is boundless, and her retirement does not appear to have decreased her commitment to serving those in need.

As I close, I say with pride that our region is a better place thanks to the dedicated and selfless service of Verna MacDonald. Her unprecedented community involvement will impact the Westport community for years to come. I am pleased to recognize this service today in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF COLORED CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES IN SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

**HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 10, 2014*

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commemorate Black History Month and recognize the 150th anniversary of the National Convention of Colored Citizens of the United States in Syracuse, New York.

On September 9, 1864, the anti-slavery newspaper *The Liberator* included a call for the convention. Frederick Douglass, a writer, statesman and leader of the Abolition Movement, annotated an "Address to the People of the United States." In his address to the people, Frederick Douglass explains, "No notice should be taken of the color of men; but justice, wisdom, and humanity should weigh alone, and be all-controlling."

The National Convention of Colored Citizens of the United States convened on October 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th of 1864 in Syracuse, New York.

In October of 1864, Frederick Douglass came to Syracuse to discuss the state of the ex-slave following the Civil War. Douglass served as convention president, which drew nearly 150 delegates from all across the nation. During the meeting, the delegates crafted a document modeled after the Declaration of Independence, entitled "Declarations of Rights and Wrongs", which was read during the Convention in Syracuse.

Central New York has a rich connection in history to the Abolition Movement. From Harriet Tubman and her tireless devotion to the cause, to Frederick Douglass with his Address to the People of the United States and "Declaration of Rights and Wrongs," Central New York and the City of Syracuse have continued to lead the charge for equality.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize the 150th anniversary of the National Convention of Colored Citizens of the United States in Syracuse, New York. Let us never grow old or weary of the struggle that our predecessors led, and let us work every day to uphold the values that Frederick Douglass and so many others demanded us to do at the National Convention of Colored Citizens of the United States.

SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY EMERGENCY WATER DELIVERY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3964) to address certain water-related concerns in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3964, a bill that undermines long-standing local, state, and Federal agreements on the California water supply and creates a dangerous precedent for similar Congressional overreach in other states.

As the Governor of California said, this bill "falsely suggests the promise of water relief when that is simply not possible given the scarcity of water supplies." Instead, it picks winners and losers, prioritizing some interests above others and disrupting years of collaboration to balance water needs.

The President has directed his Administration to work with California and local jurisdictions to provide information, flexibility in federal law, and emergency grant assistance to respond to the drought. Congress should not act unilaterally to preempt the efforts the State has already undertaken to respond to this disaster.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 10, 2014*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,258,482,479,004.37. We've added \$6,631,605,430,091.29 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THE RUSSELL HOUSE FOR ITS 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. JASON T. SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 10, 2014*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Russell House for its 20 years of service to South Central Missouri. Since its founding in 1994, the Russell House has provided a safe haven for victims of domestic violence. In addition to shelter, the Russell House provides a wide range of free services to both residents and non-resident families as they transition to a life free of abuse. The Russell House also educates the community on preventing violence and intervention.